



*United States Senate*  
**Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship**

*Olympia J. Snowe, Chair*

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**SNOWE CALLS FOR EASIER FEDERAL CONTRACTING ACCESS TO AID  
SMALL BUSINESSES DESTROYED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine), Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, today continued her fight to strengthen the ability of the Small Business Administration to assist Americans whose businesses were devastated by Hurricane Katrina by providing easier access to Federal contracts and subcontracts.

"An unprecedented natural disaster requires unprecedented action. With the Small Business Administration at the forefront of the massive relief effort in the Gulf, we must strengthen their resources to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The entire region needs to rebuild and every available SBA program must be employed to put the region on a path to recovery," said Snowe.

After a meeting Wednesday morning with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) and other Senate Committee Chairs, Snowe said she plans to offer an extensive package of small business legislation to help provide relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"Small businesses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina should have easier access to Federal contracts and subcontracts, which will help rebuild their infrastructures, work forces and job-creation potential," said Snowe. "I will continue to work with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) and House Small Business Committee Chair Don Manzullo (R-IL) to enact legislation to give small business a seat at the table to have easier access to federal contracts and subcontracts."

Snowe noted there are a variety of measures within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, including expanding access to federal disaster loans, designating hard-hit areas as HUBzones or Historically Underutilized Business Zones. HUBzones expand opportunities for small businesses to win federal contracts.

The following are some of federal contracting proposals Snowe is currently considering for legislation:

- \* Create a special set-aside for small businesses on Federally-funded transportation projects in the Katrina disaster areas.
- \* Provide contracting preferences for disaster-area small businesses in reconstruction contracts.

**\* Direct the SBA and the Directors of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of certain agencies to create a contracting outreach program for small businesses located or willing to locate in the disaster areas.**

**\* Extend labor surplus area designation to disaster areas to give preferred treatment to affected small businesses..**

**\* Create a government-wide acquisition contract (GWAC) for small businesses that want to provide relief, reconstruction, and rescue services.**

**\* Impose meaningful small business subcontracting requirements on relief and reconstruction contracts.**

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